

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250977 TOSEC 290084

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM LONDON DTD 08 OCT 1976 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 16174

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS EMBASSY MOSCOW

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR

SUBJECT: ANTICIPATED PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY
STATEMENT

REF: LONDON 15869; STATE 246040

1. MOROKHOV ARRIVED IN LONDON AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 7.
VEST IMMEDIATELY GAVE HIM AIDE MEMOIRE AND INFORMAL
PAPER AND INVITED HIS COMMENTS.

2. WITH TIMERBAEV TRANSLATING, MOROKHOV RESPONDED
"PERSONALLY TO VEST OCTOBER 8. HE SAID THAT HE HAD
GONE THROUGH THE US PAPERS, HAD FOUND MANY INTERESTING
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IDEAS THAT DESERVE ATTENTION, AND WOULD STUDY THE US

INITIATIVE CAREFULLY. HE CONTINUED THAT US WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO FORMULATE SPECIFIC COMMENTS AFTER HAVING JUST RECEIVED THE PAPERS.

3. GENERALLY SPEAKING, HE OBSERVED, THE US IDEAS WERE NO DOUBT AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME. HOWEVER, IN CERTAIN WAYS, MOROKHOV FEARED THAT THERE WAA SOME US MOVMENT IN THE REVERSE DIRECTION. (AT THIS POINT MOROKHOV ADDRESSED THE ISSUES PRIMARILY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ACTION HE WOULD LIKE TO FURTHER IN THE LONDON SUPPLIERS CONTEXT.) HE CONTINUED THAT WHEN AMBASSADOR STOESSEL HAD FIRST DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF THE LONDON CLUB IN OCTOBER 1974, STOESSEL HAD EMPHASIZED THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE WAS A CONCEPT OF PLACING UNDER SAFEGUARDS ALL NUCLEAR FACILITIES IN NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES. MOROKHOV SAID HE WAS INITIALLY NOT SATISFIED THAT SUCH AN IDEA WAS PRACTICAL, ALTHOUGH HE FULLY SUPPORTED THE ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE IT. FINALLY, HOWEVER, MOROKHOV HAD BEEN CONVINCED BY STOESSEL'S ARGUMENTS AND PERSUADED HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THE OBJECTIVE WAS REALISTIC. THAT OBJECTIVE HAD SINCE BECOME THE PRINCIPAL SOVIET APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF NON-PROLIFERATION.

4. MOROKHOV CONTINUED BY COMPARING THE DIFFICULTIES IN DEALING WITH NON-PROLIFERATION WITH THE PROBLEM OF CONSTRUCTING A BUILDING. HE SAID BEFORE THE BUILDING GOES UP, THE FOUNDATION MUST BE SOLID. IN THE SOVIET VIEW, THE FOUNDATION SHOULD CONSIST OF PUTTING THE ENTIRE NUCLEAR PROCESS UNDER SAFEGUARDS, BOTH FOR NPT AND NON-NPT PARTIES.

5. THUS, MOROKHOV CONSIDERED US PAPERS AS CONTAINING SPECIFIC ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD FORM IN PART THE FOUNDATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME. BUT SOVIETS DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND WHY THIS LONG STANDING CENTRAL IDEA OF PLACING THE ENTIRE NUCLEAR CYCLE UNDER SAFEGUARDS HAS NOT BEEN CLEARLY AND SPECIFICALLY ADVANCED IN THE US PAPERS.
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6. IN ANY EVENT, SOVIETS WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE US PROPOSALS IN MOSCOW AFTER MOROKHOV'S RETURN ON OCTOBER L0 AND WOULD RESPOND AS SOON AFTER THAT AS POSSIBLE, IN BOTH MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON. BUT MOROKHOV SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE MAJOR CONSIDERATION THAT HE HAD DESCRIBED--THAT IN SOME WAYS THE US INITIATIVE, WITHOUT STRONG ACCOMPANYING INITIATIVE FOR FULLFUEL CYCL

SAFEGUARDS, WAS A STEP BACKWARD FROM THE POINT WHERE
WE STARTED THE PROCESS IN 1974--WOULD REMAIN A CENTRAL
ELEMENT IN THE OFFICIAL SOVIET REPLY.

ARMSTRONG UNQTE ROBINSON

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